

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 053106
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TO USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO, XO

SUBJECT: US-USSR INDIAN OCEAN ARMS CONTROL TALKS:
BRIEFING OF NATO

1. SINCE AMBASSADOR WARNKE WAS UNABLE TO BRIEF THE NAC
PERSONALLY ON THE INDIAN OCEAN TALKS, MISSION SHOULD
UNDERTAKE TO BRIEF NATO MEMBERS ON LATEST ROUND OF TALKS.
MISSION IS AUTHORIZED TO DRAW ON FOLLOWING TALKING POINTS
AT MARCH 2 POLADS MEETING.

2. BEGIN TEXT OF TALKING POINTS:

A. THE FOURTH ROUND OF THE INDIAN OCEAN ARMS CONTROL
NEGOTIATIONS WAS HELD FEBRUARY 7-17 IN BERN, SWITZERLAND.

B. AMBASSADOR WARNKE POINTED OUT, BOTH PRIVATELY TO
AMBASSADOR MENDELEVICH AND IN PLENARY SESSIONS, THAT
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 053106

SOVIET ACTIVITIES IN THE HORN ARE A SERIOUS IMPEDIMENT
TO EARLY AGREEMENT ON INDIAN OCEAN ARMS LIMITATIONS.

C. THE US SIDE NOTED THAT THE CURRENT SOVIET NAVAL
PRESENCE IS GREATER THAN WHAT THE SOVIETS DESCRIBED AS THEIR

NORMAL PRESENCE LAST SEPTEMBER.

D. THE SOVIETS DISAGREED, SUGGESTING THAT EVENTS IN THE HORN SHOULD BE KEPT SEPARATE FROM THE ARMS LIMITATION NEGOTIATIONS AND ATTEMPTING TO MAKE A CASE THAT THEIR CURRENT NAVAL FORCE WAS IN FACT SLIGHTLY LOWER THAN THEIR PRESENCE LAST SUMMER. THE US SIDE RESPONDED THAT THE TALKS CANNOT TAKE PLACE IN A VACUUM AND THAT REGIONAL EVENTS DO HAVE AN IMPACT ON THE COURSE OF THE TALKS.

E. ON SUBSTANCE, THE US SIDE PRESENTED NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN THE US POSITION. BUT THE US SIDE DID TABLE A REVISED DRAFT AGREEMENT CONTAINING MORE PRECISE LANGUAGE ON SEVERAL POINTS.

F. THE SOVIETS SEEM PREPARED TO AGREE TO OUR APPROACH, WHICH WOULD ATTACH TO THE AGREEMENT SUPPLEMENTAL STATEMENTS DESCRIBING THE MILITARY PRESENCE OF BOTH SIDES. THEY HAVE NOT YET AGREED TO SPECIFY THE LEVEL, COMPOSITION AND PATTERN OF EACH SIDE'S FORCES DURING RECENT YEARS, WHICH THE US SIDE HAS SUGGESTED.

G. THE SOVIETS WANT TO INCLUDE IN THE SUPPLEMENTAL STATEMENTS PRECISE DATA ON FORCE LEVELS. WE WANT A MORE GENERAL, NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION. HOWEVER, THERE APPEARED TO BE SOME NARROWING OF THE DIFFERENCES DURING
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 053106

DISCUSSIONS BY EXPERTS.

H. HOWEVER, NO PROGRESS WAS MADE ON THE MAJOR ISSUES:

-- THE SOVIETS CONTINUED TO MAKE A BAN ON STRATEGIC FORCES A CENTRAL THEME OF THEIR NEGOTIATING EFFORTS. WE CONTINUE TO STRESS THAT THE INDIRECT ASSURANCES WHICH WE PROPOSED IN SEPTEMBER GO A LONG WAY TO MEET SOVIET CONCERNS.

-- THE SOVIETS CONTINUED TO INSIST THAT THE FORCES AND BASES OF OUR ALLIES AND US FORCES IN AREAS ADJACENT TO THE INDIAN OCEAN BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT. WE HAVE REJECTED EACH OF THE VARIOUS FORMULATIONS WHICH THE SOVIETS HAVE PROPOSED.

-- THE SOVIETS CONTINUED TO INSIST THAT WE HALT OUR MODEST CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM ON DIEGO GARCIA. WE HAVE REJECTED THIS PROPOSAL.

-- THE SOVIETS TRIED EARLIER THROUGH A CLEVER DEFINITION TO LIMIT MOST US NAVAL AUXILIARY SHIPS AND EXCLUDE MOST

OF THEIR OWN. THEY FELL BACK FROM THIS EXTREME POSITION, BUT CONTINUE TO ARGUE FOR THE EXCLUSION OF ALL AUXILIARIES. WE HAVE POINTED OUT THAT SUPPORT FACILITIES BOTH ASHORE AND AFLOAT -- I.E., NAVAL AUXILIARY SHIPS -- MUST BE LIMITED.

I. WE HAVE INSISTED THAT A DISTINCTION MUST BE MADE BETWEEN ROUTINE PORT CALLS AND UTILIZATION OF A PORT AND THAT UTILIZATION MUST BE STABILIZED. IN EARLIER ROUNDS, THE SOVIETS INSISTED THAT ALL THEIR PORT USAGE OVER PAST YEARS, INCLUDING THE USE OF BERBERA, WAS MADE UP OF ONLY A NUMBER OF ROUTINE PORT CALLS. DURING THIS ROUND, HOWEVER, THEY INDICATED SOME FLEXIBILITY ON THIS ISSUE. THEY WOULD, OF COURSE, BE WILLING TO STABILIZE US USE
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 STATE 053106

OF PORTS.

J. A FAIR MEASURE OF AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON CERTAIN PROCEDURAL ISSUES. A PARTIAL JOINT DRAFT TEXT COVERING THESE POINTS, BUT LIBERALLY SPRINKLED WITH BRACKETS, WAS DEVELOPED.

K. WE HAVE NOT AGREED ON THE TIME AND PLACE FOR THE NEXT ROUND. END TEXT. VANCE

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